



3764
BY FAX

United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO)
Commissioner for Patents
2011 South Clark Place, Crystal Plaza 2
Arlington, Virginia 22202
United States of America
Fax: 703-872-9306

Attention: Tam Nguyen
Examiner
Tel: 703-305-0784
Fax: 703-872-9306

Application/Control Number: 09/830,840
Art Unit: 3764

Re: Office communication dated 4 October 2004

23 December 2004

Thank you for your Office communication. I noted all the issues you have raised in your report and I believe that this letter and the attached documentation will satisfy all of your concerns in this application.

1. US 493,696 (FERGUSON) and US 4,915,375 (GINSBURG)

I have made a detailed study of the above two patents and, for the reasons outlined in Attachment #1, I respectfully submit that these two patents should have no material impact of the patentability of my invention.

2. Claim amendments – Revised December 2004

Claim 17 has been completely revised in light of your comments in the above mentioned Office communication. The **preamble** of each claim defines the context and contains the technical elements which are already known. The body of the **characterized by** section contains the new technical elements not mentioned in the international search report or the two US patents above, and for which protection is being sought.

3. Revised drawings – pages 13/36 & 18/36

The original drawing page 18/36 contained Fig 58 in the upper left corner. Fig 58 has been removed from page 18/36 and redrawn on a new sheet in Attachment #3. I have also included the revised page 18/36 without Fig 58. The part to which is attached axle 26 is identified as P-26 on Fig 44 and Fig 46, part P-26 is mentioned in the revised claim No. 17.

4. Patent offer by the European Patent Office (EPO)

I am pleased to advise that the European Patent Office has informed me that they have the intention to deliver an European patent. EPO's decision is based on the original french version of the same 10 claims and description that you currently have, as amended by the EPO. The amendments are outlined in the EPO communication which is included as attachment #4 together with a translated version.

I, the inventor and applicant, warrant that the modifications submitted with this letter do not contain any new inventive material. All the documentation provided is in conformity with the Patent Law of the United States of America.

My best wishes for the Holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "André Jacques". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

André Jacques
Inventor & Applicant

E-Mail: ajacques@lannon.qc.ca
Fax: 707-371-1295
Tel: (819) 275-1514

Attachments